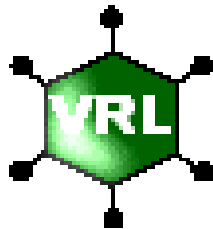


# Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report



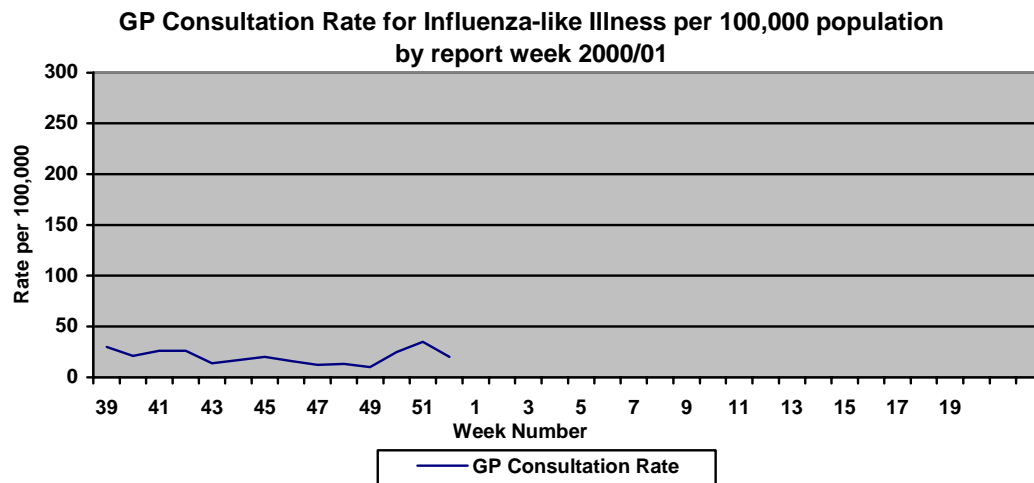
**Week 52**

**Report produced: 04/01/01**

### Influenza activity in Ireland

For the week ending 31/12/00, week 52, 6 cases of influenza –like illness were seen. This corresponds to a consultation rate of 20 per 100,000 population. Reports were received from 14 of the participating practices.

**Graph 1**



### Virological data

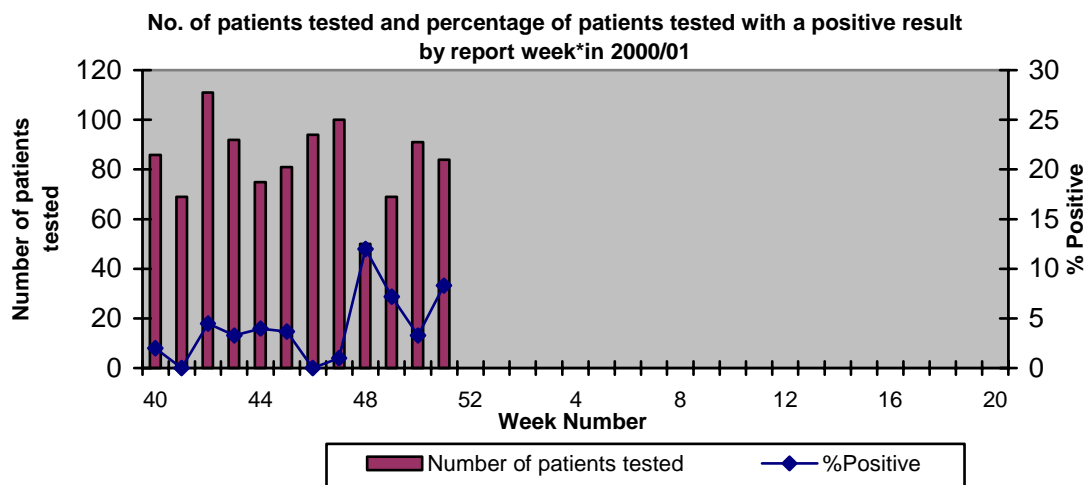
For the week ending the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December, 13 samples were received from sentinel practices. Influenza A was isolated from 4 samples, 2 of which were subtyped as influenza A (H3N2). Polymerase chain reaction test results are pending on 3 samples.

In total 71 samples were sent from hospital sources, 3 of which tested positive by serology for influenza A for the week ending the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December. Influenza positive results by serology may be due to:

- Influenza vaccination
- Infection with influenza virus or
- Both.

Therefore these results are used as indicators only of the presence of influenza in the community in the same way that consultation rates for respiratory symptoms are used. Most importantly samples received from hospitals are not paired samples and therefore a rising or falling titre cannot be determined.

**Graph 2**



\* Tests include either serology/ culture/ PCR or any combination of all three

**Table 1**

Influenza positive results by cell culture and / or polymerase chain reaction (PCR)  
by type and subtype by report week for 2000-01

<i>Week number</i>	<i>Influenza A</i>	<i>Influenza A (H1N1)</i>	<i>Influenza A (H3N2)</i>	<i>Influenza B</i>
40 (w/e 07/10/00)	2	1 (PCR,culture)	1(PCR)	0
41 (w/e 14/10/00)	0	0	0	0
42 (w/e 21/10/00)	0	0	0	0
43 (w/e 28/10/00)	0	0	0	0
44 (w/e 04/11/00)	0	0	0	0
45 (w/e 11/11/00)	0	0	0	0
46 (w/e 18/11/00)	0	0	0	0
47 (w/e 25/11/00)	0	0	0	0
48 (w/e 02/12/00)	2	0	0	0
49 (w/e 09/12/00)	1	1 (PCR)	0	0
50 (w/e 16/12/00)	2	1 (PCR)	1 (PCR)	0
51 (w/e 23/12/00)	4	0	2 (PCR)	0

**Table 2**

Influenza positive results by serology by type and by report week for 2000-01

<b>Week Number</b>	<b>Influenza A</b>	<b>Influenza B</b>
40 (w/e 07/10/00)	0	0
41 (w/e 14/10/00)	0	0
42 (w/e 21/10/00)	5	0
43 (w/e 28/10/00)	2	1
44 (w/e 04/11/00)	3	0
45 (w/e 11/11/00)	3	0
46 (w/e 18/11/00)	0	0
47 (w/e 25/11/00)	1	0
48 (w/e 02/12/00)	4	0
49 (w/e 09/12/00)	4	0
50 (w/e 16/12/00)	2	0
51 (w/e 23/12/00)	3	0

**Influenza activity in England, Wales and Scotland**

Clinical activity remains low across all sentinel reporting schemes. Consultation rate data have been disrupted by the Christmas holiday period with a reduction in the RCGP consultation rate. The RCGP consultation rate reported an overall rate of 17 consultations per 100,000 for England. The consultation rate decreased in Wales and is still below baseline activity levels. The Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health reports an increase in the general practice consultation rate of 45 per 100,000 for the week ending the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. This rate is still below the upper level set for baseline activity of 50 per 100,000.

The ERNVL isolated 3 more cases of influenza A (H1N1) and 1 isolate of influenza B for week 52. Influenza A (H1N1) accounts for 35 out of 40 influenza isolates since week 40.

**Influenza activity in Europe**

According to EISS, Belgium and France continue to detect influenza A (predominantly influenza A (H1N1)) for the week ending the 24/12/00.

Reports of Respiratory Syncytial Virus infections are also on the increase in these countries.

**Influenza activity in the United States**

For the week ending the 23/12/00, patients' visits to sentinel physicians continue to remain at baseline levels of 0-3%. Regional influenza activity was reported in 7 state and territorial health departments, sporadic activity in 34 states and no influenza activity in 7 states.

Virological data for the same period revealed that 10% (n=81) of samples received tested positive for influenza. The majority of these were influenza A unsubtype (n=53), 12 were subtyped as influenza A (H1N1) and the remaining 16 were isolated as influenza B.

Overall, since October 1<sup>st</sup>, WHO and NREVSS laboratories report that influenza was isolated in 3% of all samples received. Of these 74% have been typed as influenza A and 26% as influenza B. Of the influenza A isolates, 41% remain unsubtype and

59% were subtyped further. Influenza A (H1N1) accounts for 96% of these subtyped isolates, 4% were isolated as influenza A (H3N2).

**Influenza activity Worldwide**

According to Flunet influenza activity in France and Israel is at local outbreak level. The majority of isolates are influenza A (H1N1). Portugal, Russia and Greece report sporadic clinical activity for the week ending the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December.